Protection for the Places of Worship

*359. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of recent Fidayccn attack at Raghunath Temple in Jammu, Government have formulated any new strategy to protect the places of worship of Hindus in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Union Government have called for detailed report from the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir about the steps taken to protect Hindu places of worship; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The primary responsibility of protecting places of worship rests with the State Governments concerned. 'Public Order' and being state subjects as per the Constitution of India. However, the Union Government keeps sensitising State Govcrnmcnts/UT Administrations that important religious centers in the country may be targeted by anti-national elements or terrorists and also requests them to take adequate security measures for protection of important religious places or shrines of national importance. The Union Government also helps the State Government in maintaining peace and communal harmony, including protection of religious places, in a veriety of ways, like by sharing of information, sending alert messages and in certain cases providing para-military forces as per requirements of the situation.

(c) and (d) After the terrorist attack on Raghunath Temple, the Governor and Chief Minister of J and K visited the spot and reviewed the security cover given to the temple and elsewhere in the State. The State Government has informed that not only Raghunath temple but other important religious places both in Kashmir province and in Jammu province are being guarded by static guards which have been provided in addition to the existing area security. Further steps taken by the State Government to prevent similar terrorist

attacks include enhanced day and night patrolling, nakas at strategic points in Jammu city, reinforcement of static guards at vulnerable installations and points, supervision of security arrangements by officers at senior levels etc.

Scheme for uplifting the standard of rural people

†*360. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any Gramodaya Scheme for uplifting standard of living of people in rural areas of the country and providing necessities like potable water, housing, nutrition, primary health and rural electrification:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main objective of the said scheme:

(d) the details of targets fixed by Government under the said scheme; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to achieve the said targets and bring prosperity in the villages?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) was launched in the Annual Plan 2000-2001 in all the States and the UTs in order to achieve the objectives of sustainable human development at the village level. PMGY initially had five components *viz.*, Primary Health, Primary Education, Rural Shelter. Rural Drinking Water and Nutrition. Rural Electrification was added as the sixth component from the Annual Plan 2001-02. PMGY envisages allocation of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States and UTs for selected basic services,

(d) The allocation of ACA for PMGY in the Annual Plan 2000-01

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.